

(6) did the Director issue final orders to the effect that students may be admitted on tendering apology and how many students were admitted on the apology demanded by the Director;

(7) did the Director issue any general circular about this;

(8) if so, will a copy of the same be placed on the table?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) Statement appended. (*Appendix XIII*).

(3) No.

(4) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to the sub-division above.

(5) When the Director of Public instruction happened to meet one of the processions of school students on the day in question at about 2-45 p. m.—an hour when the students ought to be at work—he issued a Memo to the Heads of schools in Trichur to report whether the pupils of their respective schools left off work and took part in the public demonstrations with or without permission of the teachers and the Heads of schools. The Headmaster, High School, Trichur, reported that some pupils of the Upper Secondary Classes wilfully absented themselves on the day and that he with a view to put a stop to such wilful wantonness and growth of ill-discipline issued a notice that all the guilty students should be kept under suspension till Tuesday next.

(6) The Director only issued orders to the Headmaster to make it clear to the guardians that the undertaking is to be given by the boys themselves, as some guardians seemed to labour under a misapprehension on the wording that “they (students) cannot be re-admitted unless they bring their guardians with them and give an undertaking against the repetition of similar conduct in future” in the notice issued by the Headmaster. Six pupils were admitted after the notice was made clear.

(7) No general circular other than the Memo referred to in the answer to sub-division (5) was issued.

(8) In view of the answer to sub-division (7) no answer is necessary.

Grant of pension to Mr. Ninan.

249. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the date on which Mr. Ninan, Assistant Engineer, left the service of the State ;

(b) what were the circumstances under which he served his connection with the State service ;

- (c) was he given any pension recently;
 (d) if so will a copy of his petition with the orders thereon be placed on the table of the House?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) 15th Kumbham 1099.

- (b) Abolition of the post.
 (c) Yes. Rs. 33—5—0.
 (d) Copies of his petition and the orders on it are appended. (*Appendices XIV and XV.*)

Lump purchases of timber for the manufacture of furniture.

250. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

- (1) whether the Tramway Engineer purchased in lump 400 candies of teak and rosewood for the manufacture and sale of furniture in 1105 and 1106;
 (2) what was the date of the purchase;
 (3) has all the timber been utilised for the manufacture of furniture;
 (4) if not, what is the balance now held in stock;
 (5) have the transactions in furniture, since the purchase referred to in (i) resulted in gain or loss;
 (6) what is the amount of gain or loss;
 (7) what is the reason for such lump purchases when timber is readily available in the Government Chalakkudi depot;
 (8) how many cft. of sizes on an average are obtained from one candy of timber in the Tramway workshop;
 (9) has Government information about the conversion ratio between the volumes of timber before and after sawing obtained in other sawing mills?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—(1) Yes, but not exclusively for the manufacture of furniture.

- (2) 32—12—1105.
 (3) No.
 (4) Candies 274—11—4—7.
 (5) Gain.
 (6) Rs. 274—10—4.
 (7) It was more advantageous.
 (8) Between 7 to 10 cft.
 (9) No information.

Crime chart—last 10 years.

251. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) a crime-chart covering the last ten years in the State;

APPENDIX XIV.

(*Vide answer to Question No. 249.*)

Petition dated 16th April 1931, from Mr. K. M. Ninan, B. A. C. E., Municipal Engineer, Ootacamund.

"I beg to bring to your kind consideration the following facts:—

1. I was entertained in the Cochin Public Works Department in August, 1913 and my services were dispensed with on 28th February 1924 as per Cochin Chief Engineer's notice C. 1240/98, dated 28th January 1924, copy of which is enclosed for your kind persual.

2. I must respectfully state here that I never applied for an appointment in the Cochin State. In August 1913 when I was at Trivandrum waiting to get admission into the Travancore Public Works Department as the then Travancore Diwan Sir P. Rajagopalachariar had distinctly promised my uncle Mr. K. N. Iype, B. A., retired Divisional Assistant and First Class Magistrate, that he would entertain me in the Travancore Public Works Department. Mr. G. E. Browning, the then Chief Engineer of Cochin, seeing my name in the list of successful candidates for the year from the Engineering class of the College of Engineering, Madras, wired to me to go up and see him at Trichur. I then had an offer from the Madras Public Works Department also to take up service as a temporary Supervisor. Mr. Browning pressed me to take up a post in the Cochin Public Works Department and promised me all promotions and encouragements in due course. Thinking that Cochin was near my native place in Travancore, and completely believing the words of Mr. Browning, I accepted the post offered and continued to be in service till February 1924 when my services were dispensed with.

3. Here I must respectfully state the reasons which led to the termination of my services after 10½ years of service. When the commission of enquiry was set up to enquire into the Trichur riots in 1927, the Christians had cited me as one of their witnesses. The reason for this was, that I being a Mar Thoma Syrian Christian from Central Travancore had nothing in common with the Roman Catholic and Chaldean Christians of Trichur; and hence was a disinterested spectator of the riots capable of deposing impartially. On the Sunday the disturbances began, I was called at about 2—30 p.m. to the Trichur Residency Palace by the then Diwan of Cochin Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar to explain to him certain points in the file regarding the diversion of the Chalakkudi river water to the Trichur kole lands for irrigation purposes. When I was waiting on the verandah to be called up by the Diwan, I saw some Muhamadans who told me voluntarily that they were waiting there to present a petition to the Diwan praying him to prohibit a loyalty procession of Christians and Jizhuvas from proceeding with tom-toms and music in front of their mosque. When I was talking with the Diwan in the upstairs verandah, the petition was presented through a peon to him. He then told the peon to direct the petitioners to present the petition to the District Magistrate or to the Local Second Class Magistrate for necessary action. This they did not do, but instead, sent a telegram to the District Magistrate who was in Trichur, and this he received only after the riots began. After the interview with the Diwan, I went to Kandasankadavu on my motor cycle and while returning I saw the loyalty procession against the non-co-operation movement. The Christians wanted to bring out the two points that the procession was orderly at the place where I saw it, and that the Muhamadans failed to carry out the instructions of the Diwan to present their petition to the District Magistrate or the local Second Class Magistrate on the Sunday the riots began. It was to bring out the above two points that they cited me as a witness before the Commission.

4. The then Manager of the Chief Engineer's Office, the late Mr. Kunjan Marar of Kottil House, Trichur, pressed and advised me on many occasions not to give evidence before the Commission. I said, I was not at all keen to give any evidence, but, if the Commission, who had the powers of a court of law, insisted on my giving evidence I would be forced to do so. Eventually I had to give evidence before the Commission.

5. This action of mine made Mr. Marar a bitter enemy of mine and thereafter he used all his influence, which was not little, to see that Mr. Krishnan Nayar, the then newly appointed Chief Engineer, was prejudiced against me as soon as he arrived in the State. If you would kindly refer to the numerous adverse reports he made against me to the Diwan during his time, even in very petty matters, you will be convinced that Mr. Krishnan Nayar was blinded with prejudice against me in all his actions.

6. After worrying my life out by calling explanations on every kind of imaginable points on divers files, and finding that he could not book me on these explanations, he discovered all of a sudden that he could send me away on the score and pretext of economy; and recommended to Government the reduction of the number of Assistant Engineers in the State from three to two, and persuaded the then Diwan Mr. Paruvakkat Narayana Menon to pass orders accordingly.

7. In this connection I must respectfully bring to your notice that when I was entertained in the Cochin service in 1913, the number of Assistant Engineers were four and the annual allotment for the Public Works Department was not more than 5½ lakhs, and in 1924 when my services were dispensed with and when Mr. Krishnan Nayar reported to Government that two Assistant Engineers would be sufficient, the annual allotment was nearly 9 lakhs. Further, the Government has now found out that 3 Divisions are absolutely necessary for the efficient working of the department; and three Assistant Engineers have since been installed as before. These facts will clearly show that Mr. Krishnan Nayar who had then put in only 1½ years of service in the State, finding that he could not book me on my explanations, had to trot forth the economy stunt to send me away from the State service—a technically qualified officer who had put in 10½ years of service, and a big family man with 6 children and aged 35 then.

8. Mr. Paruvakkat Narayana Menon, the Diwan, showed much sympathy towards me, and said that as Mr. Krishnan Nayar was bent upon sending me away, he would ask Mr. C. Mathai, the then Director of Public Instruction, to appoint me as a Physics Lecturer in the Ernakulam Maharaja's College. But I declined the offer, stating that I would not be able to do justice to my work as lecturer and said that I would not be able to forsake my profession of Civil Engineering to satisfy the whim of an unsympathetic superior officer. Then unrequested by me he definitely promised me that he would sanction my legitimate pension which is one sixth of Rs. 200, the pay I was then drawing, i. e., Rs. 33—5—4 per mensem.

9. After I tried and secured my present appointment, primarily on the strength of the excellent testimonial so graciously granted to me by H. H. the ex-Maharaja of Cochin, copy of which is enclosed herewith; I saw Diwan Mr. P. Narayana Menon at Trichur and requested him to pass orders regarding my pension which he had so kindly promised. Then to my greatest surprise he told me that he never expected that I would get an appointment so soon; and that too at double the salary I was drawing in Cochin; and expressed his inability to recommend my legitimate pension to H. H. the Maharaja for sanction.

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10. So I would request you to kindly call for my papers, and redress my grievance by sanctioning my legitimate pension of Rs. 33—5—4 per mensem, for which I am entitled as per service rules, from the date of termination of my service in the State.

11. In this connection I must respectfully state that I am a big family man of 9 children and this amount will be the only pension for my support in my old age, as my present appointment in Municipal service will not entitle me to any pension.

12. You may ask me why I waited for 7 years for putting in this petition. I must respectfully state, that the trend of the administration in Cochin which I was keenly watching from day to day for the appearance of any silver lining to the clouds, did not engender in me at any time up to this a feeling that justice would be meted out to me, even if I presented my case in the most convincing manner possible. Now finding that many instances of injustice done during the previous two administrations have been redressed by you during your short term of Diwanship, I am emboldened to present my grievances to you hoping that justice will be meted out to me at your considerate hands.

13. Copies of the following certificates etc., are enclosed for your kind perusal.

(a) Copy of testimonial granted to me by H. H. the Ex-Maharaja of Cochin on 17th May 1924 from Elkhill House, Coonoor.

(b) Copy of certificate from Mr. J. A. Davis, Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, dated 12th August 1929.

(c) Copy of certificate from Mr. Abraham Varughese, subordinate and Assistant Sessions Judge, Ootacamund, dated 7th August 1929.

(d) Copy of certificate from Dr. Skinner, M. A., Principal, Madras Christian College, dated 3rd April 1909.

(e) Copy of certificate from Mr. Alexander Moffat, M. A., B. Sc., Professor of Physics, Madras Christian College, dated 25th March 1909.

(f) Copy of Cochin Chief Engineer's notice, dated 28th January 1924, C. 1240 of 98.

14. In this connection I beg to state that Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar when he was Diwan of Cochin appreciated my services and there are many occasions on which I was asked to meet him or the Secretary to the Diwan and explain to them many points on technical matters, some of them not in my division, as I had experience of the other two divisions also. To cite a concrete instance you may kindly see how he value my services from the following file which must be in the Huzur Office. The Huzur Office Peryar Groyne file, a subject that deals with matters in the Southern Division when I was Assistant Engineer, Western Division, was forwarded to me in Meenam 1096 M. E. along with all previous correspondence dating from 1896 A. D. for report. In that file Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar, the then Diwan, had ordered "send the file for report to the best Assistant Engineer". Then Secretary to the Diwan Mr. P. Damodara Menon remarked "Mr. Ninan would be the best man". Diwan ordered "Yes, send it to him". As the complete Huzur Office file was forwarded to me for report I saw these remarks myself. From this you can understand how my services were valued by Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar an unbiassed British officer."

(True copy)